

Quest for drugs to fight Covid-19

Physicians across the globe are running trials on drug treatments repurposed from other diseases – from Ebola to malaria to arthritis – in a race to offer hope to Covid-19 patients

1. Antivirals: Stop virus from replicating in early stages

▶ **Kaletra:** HIV drug combination of **lopinavir** and **ritonavir**. U.S. biotech AbbVie has waived its patents

▶ **Trials:** More than 3,200 patients in international trials studying combinations

▶ **Remdesivir:** Gilead Sciences' antiviral, developed for Ebola

▶ 600 patients in China and U.S.

▶ **Favipiravir:** From Japan's Fujifilm

▶ Clinical studies of 340 people in China

▶ **Chloroquine:** Anti-malarial drug

▶ South Korea, China, U.S. and Norway

2. Anti-inflammatories: Treat immune system reactions

▶ **Actemra:** Roche's rheumatoid arthritis treatment blocks **cytokine storm** –

massive overreaction of immune system – during pneumonia stage

▶ Trials to start in U.S. and Italy

▶ **Kevzara:** Rheumatoid arthritis drug from Sanofi and Regeneron treats excessive cytokine release during ventilation

▶ 400 patients in 16 U.S. states



3. Antibody-based treatments: Derived from blood plasma of recovered Covid-19 patients

▶ Eli Lilly with Canadian start-up AbCellera and Japan's Takeda are all developing drugs

▶ 300-plus patients in trials

4. Other treatments:

▶ **BCG vaccine:** Used to prevent tuberculosis by stimulating white blood cells to target pathogens before antibody response kicks in

▶ Trials of 4,000 medical workers in Australia, 1,000 medics in Netherlands

